Applicant : John Panzer
Serial No. : 10/747,677
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 20 of 25

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
0442001 / Communications 94

REMARKS

Applicant is filing a Request for Continued Examination and an Amendment in response to the final Office Action of April 25, 2008. Applicant asks that all claims be allowed in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks. Claims 1-62 are pending, of which claims 1, 20, 26, 30, 34, 48, 51, and 54 are independent.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-55 and 57-62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,430,602 (Kay) and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0163519 (Kegel), and claim 56 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Kay, Kegel, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2008/0021970 (Werndorfer). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-62 because Kay, Kegel, and Werndorfer, when taken alone or in combination, do not describe or suggest all of the features recited in each of independent claims 1, 20, 26, 30, 34, 48, 51, and 54, as discussed more fully below.[1]

Claims 1-19 and 55-62

As amended, independent claim 1 recites a method that includes, among other features, receiving, at an interactive software agent, an IM from an IM sender that is addressed to the screen name for the interactive software agent, identifying the IM sender as the IM user who sent the IM, identifying, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the

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[1] The final Office Action of April 25, 2008 sets forth an omnibus rejection of independent claims 1, 20, 26, 30, 34, 48, 51, and 54 that does not address differences in scope as between those independent claims. *See* final Office Action of April 25, 2008 at page 2, lines 13 to page 4, line 7. Applicant notes that such an omnibus rejection is disfavored because it fails to provide the applicant with any guidance or a fair opportunity to reply:

> An omnibus rejection . . . is stereotyped and usually not informative and should therefore be avoided. . . . A plurality of claims should never be grouped together in a common rejection, unless that rejection is equally applicable to all claims in the group.

MPEP § 707.07(d); *see also* MPEP § 706.02(j) ("It is important for an examiner to properly communicate the basis for a rejection so that the issues can be identified early and the applicant can be given fair opportunity to reply.").

Applicant : John Panzer
Serial No. : 10/747,677
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 21 of 25

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
0442001 / Communications 94

IM sender, and adding content included in the IM to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender based on having identified the web log as being associated with the IM sender.

The final Office Action acknowledges that Kay does not describe or suggest a web blog or a web blog associated with an IM user. *See* final Office Action of April 25, 2008 at page 3, lines 11-12. Consequently, the final Office Action relies on Kegel for teaching elements of independent claim 1 that relate to a web blog or a web log associated with an IM user.

Kegel describes a web page editing system that enables any number of authorized users to edit a web page by sending an e-mail to a specified e-mail address that corresponds to the web page. *See, e.g.*, Kegel at Abstract and paragraphs [0117]-[0170]. As described by Kegel, Kegel's web page editing system is configured such that the e-mail address to which an e-mail is sent identifies the web page that is to be edited. *See, e.g.*, Kegel at paragraphs [0117]-[0170]. As a result, any number of authorized users of Kegel's web page editing system can edit the same web page by sending an e-mail to the same e-mail address, irrespective of their own originating e-mail address. *See, e.g.*, Kegel at paragraphs [0117]-[0170]. Notably, Kegel's system does not identify which web page is to be edited based on the user who sent the e-mail.

Consequently, with its focus on the e-mail address at which an e-mail is received as determining the web page that is to be edited, Kegel does not describe or suggest identifying, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the IM sender, and adding content included in the IM to the web log identified as being associated with the IM sender based on having identified the web log as being associated with the IM sender, as recited in independent claim 1. Furthermore, neither Kay nor Werndorfer cures this deficiency in Kegel. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-19 and 55-62, which depend from independent claim 1.

Applicant : John Panzer
Serial No. : 10/747,677
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 22 of 25

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
0442001 / Communications 94

Claims 20-25

As amended, independent claim 20 recites a method that includes, among other features, identifying one IM user as the IM user who sent an IM, identifying, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the one IM user, and adding content included in the IM to the web log identified as being associated with the one IM user based on having identified the web log as being associated with the one IM user.

For reasons that are analogous to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 1, applicant submits that Kay, Kegel, and Werndorfer, when taken alone or in combination, do not describe or suggest these features of independent claim 20. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 20 and dependent claims 21-25, which depend from independent claim 20.

Claims 26-29

As amended, independent claim 26 recites a method that includes. among other features, determining which one of at least two users sent an IM, identifying, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the user who sent the IM, and adding content included in the IM to the web log identified as being associated with the user who sent the IM based on having identified the web log as being associated with the user who sent the IM.

For reasons that are analogous to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 1, applicant submits that Kay, Kegel, and Werndorfer, when taken alone or in combination, do not describe or suggest these features of independent claim 26. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 26 and dependent claims 27-29, which depend from independent claim 26.

Claims 30-33

As amended, independent claim 30 recites a method that includes. among other features, determining that a first IM user sent a first IM, identifying, from among at least a first web log and a second web log, the first web log as being associated with the first IM user, and adding

Applicant : John Panzer
Serial No. : 10/747,677
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 23 of 25

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
0442001 / Communications 94

content included in the first IM to the first web log based on having identified the first web log as being associated with the first IM user.

For reasons that are analogous to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 1, applicant submits that Kay, Kegel, and Werndorfer, when taken alone or in combination, do not describe or suggest these features of independent claim 30. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 30 and dependent claims 31-33, which depend from independent claim 30.

Claims 34-47

As amended, independent claim 34 recites a method that includes, among other features, identifying a user as having sent an IM addressed to an IM screen name of a web log software agent, determining if the user has a web log, and, in response to a determination that the user does not have a web log, creating a web log for the user and adding content included in the IM to the created web log.

For reasons that are analogous to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 1, applicant submits that Kay, Kegel, and Werndorfer, when taken alone or in combination, do not describe or suggest these features of independent claim 34. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 34 and dependent claims 35-47, which depend from independent claim 34.

Claims 48-50

As amended, independent claim 48 recites a system that includes, among other features, an IM software agent configured to identify an IM user who sent a received IM, identify, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the IM user who sent the received IM, and store content included in the received IM as a web log entry in the web log identified as being associated with the IM user who sent the received IM based on having identified the web log as being associated with the IM user who sent the received IM.

Applicant : John Panzer
Serial No. : 10/747,677
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 24 of 25

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
0442001 / Communications 94

For reasons that are analogous to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 1, applicant submits that Kay, Kegel, and Werndorfer, when taken alone or in combination, do not describe or suggest these features of independent claim 48. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 48 and dependent claims 49 and 50, which depend from independent claim 48.

Claims 51-53

As amended, independent claim 51 recites a system that includes, among other features, means for identifying an IM user who sent a received IM, means for identifying, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the user who sent the received IM, and means for adding the received IM to the identified web log based on having identified the web log as being associated with the user who sent the received IM.

For reasons that are analogous to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 1, applicant submits that Kay, Kegel, and Werndorfer, when taken alone or in combination, do not describe or suggest these features of independent claim 51. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 51 and dependent claims 52 and 53, which depend from independent claim 51.

Claim 54

As amended, independent claim 54 recites a computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, that includes instructions for identifying an IM user who sent a received IM, identifying, from among a collection of web logs, a web log as being associated with the IM user who sent the IM, and storing content included in the received IM in the identified web log based on identifying the web log as being associated with the IM user who sent the IM.

For reasons that are analogous to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 1, applicant submits that Kay, Kegel, and Werndorfer, when taken alone or in combination, do not describe or suggest these features of independent claim 54. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 54.

Applicant : John Panzer
Serial No. : 10/747,677
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 25 of 25

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
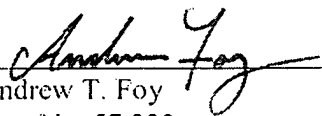0442001 / Communications 94

Conclusion

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

The fee in the amount of $940 in payment of the Request for Continued Examination Fee ($810) and the Petition for One-month Extension of Time ($130) is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits associated with the filing of this Amendment or otherwise to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/27/2009

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